

prepaid group practice in the United States. His important personal contributions to the enactment of sound health care policy have been invaluable and have improved the Nation's health care delivery system.

During the 25 years that I have known Bob, he has strongly supported health legislation that would extend coverage to all Americans and that would otherwise benefit the country as a whole, not merely an interested segment of the health care industry. The first question he would ask about legislation was whether it was good public policy; only then would he consider its impact on Kaiser Permanente. Bob's thoughtful advocacy on behalf of prepaid group practice has been partially driven by his belief that it is the most effective way of assuring that quality health care will be available to a broad spectrum of the community, including low-income individuals. I have appreciated his informed, ethical, and intelligent approach to government relations during my time in the California Assembly and in Congress.

I have also appreciated Bob's efforts on behalf of the environment. As an outdoorsman, Bob recognizes the value of preserving this Nation's open spaces and biological diversity. He has been an active crusader for protection of the land, animals, and plant life for existing and future generations.

I hope that Bob's retirement from Kaiser Permanente will not deprive Congress of his good counsel on future issues.

SALUTE TO FREDERICK C.
BRANCH OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Frederick C. Branch on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his commission as the first African-American officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Fifty years ago, Frederick C. Branch was appointed second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. On November 17, 1995 the Philadelphia Chapter of the Montford Point Marine Association will present a Marine Corps Birthday Ball and Ceremonial Dinner honoring Frederick C. Branch for his many historic accomplishments.

Educated at Purdue University and Temple University where he received a B.A. degree in physics, Mr. Branch is currently the head of the science department at Murrell Dobbins Area Vocational School in north Philadelphia and has been for the past 15 years.

Mr. Branch is not only a distinguished military officer, but he has also been involved in many community activities. Branch was a past president of Tioga Methodist Men of Tioga United Methodist Church; a charter member and organizer of Pennndelphia Detachment, Marine Corps League. In addition, he helped organize a national association of the first African-American men accepted in the Marine Corps which later was officially named the Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.

I wish my colleagues will join me today in congratulating Frederick C. Branch for so distinguished a career. I wish Frederick Branch the very best as he continues his service to the north Philadelphia community.

TRIBUTE TO WESTERN SPRINGS
MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two outstanding resident in my district—Mr. John Kravcik and Ms. Joyce Person—the Western Springs Man and Woman of the Year. These two people represent the volunteer spirit that has not only helped make their community great, but out entire nation as well. They will be honored for their efforts to better their village on Saturday, November 4 at the Western Springs Grand Ball.

Ms. Person, a 27-year resident of Western Springs, has combined her love of natural beauty with her love of her community. In addition to her long service to the village's Garden Club as president, she was also the secretary of the Village Party Caucus for 10 years, a volunteer organization that helps select qualified candidates for village offices. She is also a dedicated volunteer at La Grange Memorial Hospital. Yet, Ms. Person understands that true community service extends far beyond the bounds of one's village. In that regard, she organized the Hostage Remembrance Day to honor the Americans held in Iran in 1979 and 1980.

Mr. Kravcik, a resident for 33 years, has been active in government, professional, and religious organizations. He served on the Western Springs Planning and Zoning Commission from 1983 to 1991, when he was elected to a 4-year term to the Board of Trustees. He has been involved in leadership roles at his church, St. John of the Cross, and Nazareth Academy, a local high school. Mr. Kravcik and his wife, Joan, were co-chairmen of a Vietnamese refugee settlement committee, helping to find housing, employment, and other necessities for eight families who came to Western Springs.

Mr. Speaker, I salute these two outstanding Americans for their tireless efforts for Western Springs, and I hope they are able to enjoy many more years of service to their community.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARY URBAN
HARRER

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend to our Nation's attention and to my congressional colleagues, the life of Sister Mary Urban Harrer.

For more than a quarter of a century, she has been so closely connected with the St. Clares Riverside Medical Center that her name is synonymous with its special mission and reputation.

Sister Mary Urban fills many roles at the hospital. She is chairman of the board of the medical center, a founder and mover of the annual Harvest Festival, a relentless fundraiser and organizer, an astute businesswoman, and a health care professional with years of hands-on experience in nursing and

hospital administration. Her love of God and her service to mankind knows few equals.

But there is a role that transcends even these. First and foremost, she is a religious member of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother.

This month that role is highlighted as she celebrates her 60 years in the convent.

Her long road began in Bavaria where she was born, one of 12 children of Louis and Wally Harrer. Sister Mary Urban entered the convent at Abenburg. But within a short time she was transferred to Rome and the congregation's motherhouse. In 1935, she came to the United States—a journey she had long wished for and a dream come true.

In America, she entered the novitiate in Milwaukee, WI, and completed her formation for the religious life, taking her first vows in 1936 and her final vows in 1941.

Transferred to St. Francis Regional Medical Center in 1939, she entered the 3-year diploma nursing program and graduated as a registered nurse in 1942. Ten years later, she earned a bachelor's degree in nursing education from Marquette University.

For 28 years, she served at St. Francis as staff nurse, head nurse, nursing supervisor, and administrator.

She was known not only as a dedicated nurse but one who fought valiantly for her patients. The story is told of the time in Wichita, KS, when she was assisting in a Caesarean delivery. An infant was declared dead by the doctor, but she thought it was too soon to give up. She worked until he was breathing on his own. For the next 18 years, Sister Mary Urban received a bouquet of roses on the baby's birthday.

In 1967, she was transferred to Denville, leaving an 800-bed regional medical center for St. Clare's Hospital, then a 180-bed community hospital.

As the hospital's administrator, she soon became known for her indomitable spirit, her courage, her gift for fundraising, her deep sense of caring, and her strong faith in God.

Daily, she made rounds of patients, moving quietly from room to room to ask how they were doing and promising to speak to the Lord on their behalf.

She had so much energy that her feet seemed hardly to hit the ground as she hurried up and down stairs and hallways. To some she was known as the "flying nun."

All of her work paid off. In the years of her tenure, St. Clare's grew in size and in the scope of its services. In 1972, a building program almost doubled the hospital's size. In 1984, when a four-story tower was constructed, it was named appropriately, Urban Tower.

It was not only the hospital which profited from her presence. So did the larger community. In 1983, the Denville Rotary Club was setting up its first Citizen of the Year Award. Members said they were looking for a person whose actions had contributed most to the residents of Denville area. The unanimous vote was Sister Mary Urban.

Today, as Chairman of the Board, she continues to be involved in the day-to-day life of the medical center where she brings determination to her work as she does for the Harvest Festival, the successful 1-day country fair which she inspired.

She has the ability to inspire others to the same kind of Herculean efforts. And they